IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1-44 (Cancelled)

45. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving a first pathname;

determining if the first pathname is a dynamic symbolic link (DSL); and

if the first pathname is a DSL:

extracting at least one tag from the first pathname;

determining at least one value corresponding to the tag; and

substituting the first value into the first pathname in place of the tag, producing a first target pathname.

46. (New) The method as recited in claim 45 further comprising accessing a file designated by the first target pathname.

47. (New) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the at least one tag comprises at least one DSL declaration.

48. (New) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the at least one tag comprises at least one predefined alphanumeric character sequence.

49. (New) The method as recited in claim 45 further comprising:

receiving a second pathname; and

resolving the second pathname as a symbolic link to the first pathname prior to
determining if the first pathname is the DSL.

50. (New) The method as recited in claim 45, further comprising returning a first file
handle to the first target pathname.

51. (New) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the first pathname is received in
response to a request from a first application to access a first file, and wherein the method
further comprises:

receiving the first pathname in response to a request from a second application
attempting to access the first file; and

producing a second target pathname corresponding to the first pathname for the
second application, the second target pathname different from the first
target pathname.

52. (New) The method as recited in claim 51, wherein:
the first application is a first instance of the first application; and
the second application is a second instance of the first application.

53. (New) The method as recited in claim 45 further comprising registering the DSL
prior to receiving the first pathname, wherein the registering includes:

registering a DSL specification; and

recording the DSL specification.

54. (New) The method as recited in claim 53 further comprising receiving the DSL specification from a first process prior to registering the DSL specification.

55. (New) The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the first application inheriting the DSL specification of the first process.

56. (New) The method as recited in claim 45 further comprising generating the DSL prior to the step of receiving the first pathname, wherein the generating includes:

    obtaining a second pathname;

    renaming the second pathname as the first target pathname;

    determining at least one variable in the first target pathname;

    generating the first pathname from the at least one variable and the first target pathname;

    creating a symbolic link from the second pathname pointing to the DSL.

57. (New) The method as recited in claim 56 wherein generating the first pathname comprises:

    defining a DSL declaration using the variable; and

    substituting the variable in the first target pathname with the DSL declaration.

58. (New) The method as recited in claim 45 further comprising:

    determining a default value if the first value can not be determined; and

substituting the default value into the first pathname in place of the tag, producing the first target pathname.

59. (New) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein:

determining if the first pathname is a DSL includes determining if the pathname includes at least one declaration; and

determining the at least one value includes utilizing the tag as the value.

60. (New) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein:

determining if the first pathname is a DSL includes determining if the pathname includes at least one declaration; and

determining the at least one value includes utilizing the declaration as the first value.

61. (New) A computer readable medium storing a plurality of instructions executable to perform a method comprising:

receiving a first pathname;

determining if the first pathname is a dynamic symbolic link (DSL); and

if the first pathname is a DSL:

extracting at least one tag from the first pathname;

determining at least one value corresponding to the tag; and

substituting the first value into the first pathname in place of the tag, producing a first target pathname.

62. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61 wherein the method further comprises accessing a file designated by the first target pathname.

63. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61, wherein the at least one tag comprises at least one DSL declaration.

64. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61, wherein the at least one tag comprises at least one predefined alphanumeric character sequence.

65. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a second pathname; and

resolving the second pathname as a symbolic link to the first pathname prior to determining if the first pathname is the DSL.

66. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61 wherein the method further comprises returning a first file handle to the first target pathname.

67. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61, wherein the first pathname is received in response to a request from a first application to access a first file, and wherein the method further comprises:

receiving the first pathname in response to a request from a second application attempting to access the first file; and

producing a second target pathname corresponding to the first pathname for the second application, the second target pathname different from the first target pathname.

68. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 67, wherein:
the first application is a first instance of the first application; and
the second application is a second instance of the first application.

69. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61 wherein the method further comprises registering the DSL prior to receiving the first pathname, wherein the registering includes:

registering a DSL specification; and

recording the DSL specification.

70. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 69 wherein the method further comprises receiving the DSL specification from a first process prior to registering the DSL specification.

71. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 70 wherein the method further comprises the first application inheriting the DSL specification of the first process.

72. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61 wherein the method further comprises generating the DSL prior to the step of receiving the first pathname, wherein the generating includes:

obtaining a second pathname;

renaming the second pathname as the first target pathname;

determining at least one variable in the first target pathname;

generating the first pathname from the at least one variable and the first target pathname;

creating a symbolic link from the second pathname pointing to the DSL.

73. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 72 wherein generating the first pathname comprises:

defining a DSL declaration using the variable; and

substituting the variable in the first target pathname with the DSL declaration.

74. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61 wherein the method further comprises:

determining a default value if the first value can not be determined; and

substituting the default value into the first pathname in place of the tag, producing the first target pathname.

75. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61, wherein:

determining if the first pathname is a DSL includes determining if the pathname includes at least one declaration; and

determining the at least one value includes utilizing the tag as the value.

76. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 61, wherein:

determining if the first pathname is a DSL includes determining if the pathname includes at least one declaration; and

determining the at least one value includes utilizing the declaration as the first value.

77. (New) A computer system comprising:

a computer readable medium storing a plurality of instructions; and

a processor coupled to receive the plurality of instructions and configured to execute the plurality of instructions;

wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, implement a method comprising:

receiving a first pathname;

determining if the first pathname is a dynamic symbolic link (DSL); and

if the first pathname is a DSL:

extracting at least one tag from the first pathname;

determining at least one value corresponding to the tag; and

substituting the first value into the first pathname in place of the tag, producing a first target pathname.

78. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77 wherein the method further comprises accessing a file designated by the first target pathname.

79. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77, wherein the at least one tag comprises at least one DSL declaration.

80. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77, wherein the at least one tag comprises at least one predefined alphanumeric character sequence.

81. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77 wherein the method further comprises:

      receiving a second pathname; and

      resolving the second pathname as a symbolic link to the first pathname prior to determining if the first pathname is the DSL.

82. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77 wherein the method further comprises returning a first file handle to the first target pathname.

83. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77, wherein the first pathname is received in response to a request from a first application to access a first file, and wherein the method further comprises:

      receiving the first pathname in response to a request from a second application attempting to access the first file; and

      producing a second target pathname corresponding to the first pathname for the second application, the second target pathname different from the first target pathname.

84. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 83, wherein:

the first application is a first instance of the first application; and

the second application is a second instance of the first application.

85. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77 wherein the method further comprises registering the DSL prior to receiving the first pathname, wherein the registering includes:

registering a DSL specification; and

recording the DSL specification.

86. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 85 wherein the method further comprises receiving the DSL specification from a first process prior to registering the DSL specification.

87. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 86 wherein the method further comprises the first application inheriting the DSL specification of the first process.

88. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77 wherein the method further comprises generating the DSL prior to the step of receiving the first pathname, wherein the generating includes:

obtaining a second pathname;

renaming the second pathname as the first target pathname;

determining at least one variable in the first target pathname;

generating the first pathname from the at least one variable and the first target pathname;

creating a symbolic link from the second pathname pointing to the DSL.

89. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 88 wherein generating the first pathname comprises:

defining a DSL declaration using the variable; and

substituting the variable in the first target pathname with the DSL declaration.

90. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77 wherein the method further comprises:

determining a default value if the first value can not be determined; and

substituting the default value into the first pathname in place of the tag, producing the first target pathname.

91. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77, wherein:

determining if the first pathname is a DSL includes determining if the pathname includes at least one declaration; and

determining the at least one value includes utilizing the tag as the value.

92. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 77, wherein:

determining if the first pathname is a DSL includes determining if the pathname includes at least one declaration; and

determining the at least one value includes utilizing the declaration as the first

value.